IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 18, 22, 24, 25, 29, 30, 32, 35, 44, and 52, as indicated in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, the reinforcing material arranged to prevent loss of a water-tight sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element when the female end is subjected to a predetermined level of internal pressure,

wherein the reinforcing material ~~has a width not substantially greater than a single corrugation and~~ is not a hose clamp.

19. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end.

20. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein each section includes opposed male and female ends and the outside pipe diameter of each section between its respective male and female ends is substantially the same.

21. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 20, wherein the outside diameter of the female end is substantially the same as the outside pipe diameter.

22. (Currently Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim 19, wherein the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and [[an annular valley]] valleys therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, and wherein the annular channel is formed in one of the crests.

23. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 22, wherein the outside diameter of the male end is selected to permit mating and sealing engagement with the female end.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The corrugated pipe of claim 22,~~ In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end;

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, the reinforcing material arranged to prevent loss of a sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element when the female end is subjected to a predetermined level of internal pressure; and

wherein the reinforcing material is not a hose clamp, the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end, the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and valleys therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, the annular channel being formed in one of the crests, and [[wherein]] the male end includes an annular intermediate corrugation [[adjacent]] defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, and being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated.

25. (Currently Amended) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, the reinforcing material structurally configured to prevent loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe;

wherein the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end;

wherein the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and [[an annular valley]] valleys therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, and wherein the annular channel is formed in one of the crests;

wherein the male end includes an annular intermediate corrugation defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, and being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated; and

wherein the outside diameter of the intermediate corrugation is less than the outside pipe diameter.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the male end also includes a second corrugation that can be accommodated in the female end.

28. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the female end includes a distal end into which the male end is inserted, and the male end includes a third corrugation with a crest that extends radially outwardly at least as far as the distal end of the female end.

29. (Currently Amended) A corrugated pipe for accommodating fluid flow, the pipe including a material that deforms in response to internal water pressure and including two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end;

an annular reinforcement member separately applied around the exterior surface of the female end, the annular reinforcement member having a width that is greater than the width of the sealing element ~~but is not substantially greater than a single corrugation~~, the annular reinforcement member being disposed substantially upstream from the sealing element and configured to

resist loss of a water-tight sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe; and

wherein the female end includes a first material and the annular reinforcement member includes a second material that is different from the first material of the female end.

30. (Currently Amended) A corrugated pipe having two sections of material joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end;

an annular band of reinforcing coating separately formed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, and structurally configured to preclude the corrugated pipe, which normally expands outwardly when subjected to a predetermined level of interior water pressure, from expanding outwardly at the site of the sealing element and losing a water-tight sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element when the pipe is subjected to the predetermined level of interior water pressure; and

wherein the annular band of reinforcing coating includes a portion of material that is different from the material of the female end of the corrugated pipe.

31. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the annular band of reinforcing coating is structurally configured to maintain sealing engagement between the female end of the corrugated pipe and the sealing element when the pipe is subjected to the predetermined level of interior pressure.

32. (Currently Amended) A corrugated pipe comprising:

a male end having a corrugation;

a female end disposed around the male end and capable of expanding to allow fluid flow outside of the male end when the male and female ends are subjected to a predetermined level of internal water pressure;

a gasket disposed around the corrugation of the male end; and

a ring separately disposed around the female end and arranged to maintain a water-tight seal between an outer surface of the gasket and an inner surface of the female end when the male and female ends are subjected to the predetermined level of internal water pressure; and

wherein the ring is not a hose clamp, the female end includes a first type of material, and the ring includes a second type of material that has a greater structural rigidity than the first type of material of the female end.

33. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 32, wherein gasket is disposed in an annular channel formed in the corrugation of the male end.

34. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 32, wherein the ring is radially aligned with the gasket.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The corrugated pipe of claim 34,~~ A corrugated pipe comprising:

a male end having a corrugation;

a female end disposed around the male end and capable of expanding to allow fluid flow outside of the male end when the male and female ends are subjected to a predetermined level of internal pressure;

a gasket disposed around the corrugation of the male end; and

a ring separately disposed around the female end and arranged to maintain a seal between an outer surface of the gasket and an inner surface of the female end when the male and female ends are subjected to the predetermined level of internal pressure;

wherein the ring is not a hose clamp, the female end includes a first type of material, and the ring includes a second type of material that has a greater structural rigidity than the first type of material of the female end; and

wherein the female end includes at least one guide for maintaining the ring in radial alignment with the gasket.

36. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 32, wherein the ring comprises any one of a single piece of material that does not include any structure for allowing the ring to be unwound or expanded, a coating that

includes a plastic material, or a coating that includes one or more of a fiberglass, carbon, or plastic fiber.

37. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein the female end is made of a first material, and the annular band of reinforcing material includes a second material that is different from the first material of the female end.

38. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 37, wherein the first material is plastic, and the second material includes one or more of a fiberglass, carbon, or plastic fiber.

39. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 37, wherein the second material resists deformation greater than the first material.

40. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 29, wherein the female end is made of a first material, the annular band of reinforcing material includes a second material that is different from the first material of the female end, and the second material resists deformation greater than the first material.

41. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the portion of material of the annular band of reinforcing coating comprises one or more of a

fiberglass portion, a carbon portion, or a plastic fiber portion, and the material of the female end of the corrugated pipe comprises plastic.

42. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the portion of material of the annular band of reinforcing coating resists deformation greater than the material of the female end of the corrugated pipe.

43. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 32, wherein the reinforcing material includes one or more of a fiberglass portion, a carbon portion, or a plastic fiber portion, and the expandable material of the female end comprises plastic.

44. (Currently Amended) A reinforcement for a corrugated pipe connection having a male end with a corrugation, a female end disposed around the male end, and a seal between an outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and an inner surface of the female end, comprising:

a reinforcing member separately coated around an outer surface of the female end and structurally configured to maintain [[the]]] a water-tight seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end when the pipe is subjected to a predetermined level of interior water pressure; and

wherein the female end comprises a plastic material, and the reinforcing member includes plastic material and one or more of a fiberglass material, a carbon fiber material, or a plastic fiber material.

45. (Previously Presented) The reinforcement of claim 44, wherein a bond is formed between the plastic material of the female end and the plastic material of the reinforcing member.

46. (Previously Presented) The reinforcement of claim 44, wherein the reinforcing member comprises a coating.

47. (Previously Presented) The reinforcing member of claim 44, wherein the reinforcing member resists deformation caused by the predetermined level of interior pressure greater than the plastic material of the female end of the corrugated pipe.

48. (Previously Presented) The reinforcing member of claim 44, wherein the reinforcing member is coated around an exterior surface of the female end.

49. (Previously Presented) The reinforcing member of claim 44, wherein the reinforcing member has a width that is greater than a width of the seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end.

50. (Previously Presented) The reinforcing member of claim 49, wherein the width of the reinforcing member is not substantially greater than a width of the corrugation of the male end.

51. (Previously Presented) The reinforcing member of claim 44, wherein the reinforcing member is radially aligned with the seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end.

52. (Currently Amended) ~~The reinforcing member of claim 51,~~ A reinforcement for a corrugated pipe connection having a male end with a corrugation, a female end disposed around the male end, and a seal between an outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and an inner surface of the female end, comprising:

a reinforcing member separately coated around an outer surface of the female end and structurally configured to maintain the seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end when the pipe is subjected to a predetermined level of interior pressure;

wherein the female end comprises a plastic material, and the reinforcing member includes plastic material and one or more of a fiberglass material, a carbon fiber material, or a plastic fiber material; and

wherein the female end includes at least one guide for maintaining the reinforcing member in radial alignment with the seal between the outer surface of the corrugation of the male end and the inner surface of the female end.